

themselves unemployed or underemployed, scraping by on an income well below the poverty line. Language and educational barriers often prevent these workers from receiving permanent employment or attaining economic self-sufficiency.

Because their work takes them across various State and municipal borders, only a national program can address the problems faced by the migrant farmworker population. The National Farmworker Jobs Program provides housing, healthcare, and childcare assistance to workers they can remain employed and provide for their families. Considering that many of these hardworking families are not fluent in English, obtaining these services would otherwise be a daunting if not impossible task.

The National Farmworker Jobs Program has assisted migrant workers with education and job training since its inception. It has also played an active role in job placement, minimizing the amount of time migrant workers remain unemployed. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, 85 percent of the National Farmworker Jobs Program enrollees received services that enabled them to retain or enhance their agricultural employment or secure new jobs at better wages. And that is with a budget of just \$80 million.

The National Farmworker Jobs Program services a vital social role, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

#### HONORING GENERAL BENJAMIN O. DAVIS, JR.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago as America celebrated the birth of our Nation, one of its greatest military leaders passed away. General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., 89, the legendary commander of the Tuskegee Airmen, died at Army Reed Medical Center on the Fourth of July. Yesterday, General Davis was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

From his youth Davis knew that he wanted to become a pilot and serve his country. In 1932 he entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Throughout his years at West Point he was shunned by his fellow cadets who refused to speak with him. Think of it, 4 years at one of the Nation's best institutions of higher education where no one spoke to you and you ate all of your meals alone. Davis once spoke of the intimidation and harassment he endured at the academy, saying, "I wasn't leaving, this is something I wanted to do and I wasn't going to let anybody drive me out." In 1936, Davis became the first African American in the 20th century to graduate from West Point.

After graduation Davis applied for the Army Air Corps but was rejected because of his race. He became professor of military science at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. In 1940, President Roosevelt issued an order allowing African Americans to fly for the military, and Davis immediately began

his training at the Tuskegee Army Air Base. In 1942 he took command of the first all-black air unit, the 99th fighter squadron. Due to his excellent service in North Africa and Italy during World War II, he was promoted to colonel of the 322nd fighter group. As a colonel, Davis led 200 air combat missions. Davis would tell his men, "We are not out looking for glory. We're out to do our mission." During his first mission, his 38 pilots held off over 100 German fighters. Davis's fighter group boasted an inspiring 100-percent success rate. None of the bombers he protected was ever lost to enemy fire. Despite his success, he was not allowed to command white troops and was turned away from segregated officers' clubs.

After World War II, Davis led a fighter wing in the Korean War and, in 1953, was promoted to brigadier general, becoming the first black general in the Air Force. Over the next 13 years he would rise in rank to lieutenant general and serve as deputy-commander-in-chief of U.S. Strike Command. When Davis retired from the Air Force in 1970, he was the highest-ranking African American officer in the military.

After hanging up his uniform Davis continued serving our country. He supervised the Federal Air Marshal program and, in 1971, was named Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

In 1998 President Clinton awarded Davis his fourth star. "One person can bring about extraordinary change" President Clinton said when speaking of the general. At the White House ceremony then-Defense Secretary William S. Cohen stated that "General Davis is often held up as a shining example of what is possible for African Americans. But today we honor him not only as a great African American. We honor him because like his father before him, he is a great warrior, a great officer, and a great American." Indeed like his father, General Benjamin Oliver Davis Sr., he served his country with great patriotism in the face of discrimination. His father was the first African-American general in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Even in his 80s, General Benjamin Oliver Davis Jr. still spoke with the strong, dignified and commanding manner he was known for during his professional career. Steve Crump, an Emmy-Award-winning journalist in Charlotte, NC who did a documentary on the Tuskegee Airmen, recalled a speech by General Davis to many of his fellow airmen. Crump said that the general's attendance was a surprise to the audience and that upon seeing him walk out on to the stage, they snapped to attention just as they had done more than 50 years earlier.

At Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, NC there is a KC-135 tanker with a portrait of Davis on its nose. The aircraft is dedicated to all the Tuskegee Airmen.

One of the greatest of the greatest generation is gone. As those who passed on before him did, General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. left us with a sim-

ple template on how to conduct ourselves in service to our country. Be of great courage, character and humility.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO LARRY BROWN

• Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, ever since the days of the pioneers, when folks from miles around would gather to participate in community barn-raising, the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor has been part of the Oregon story. That spirit is alive and well today, as in every Oregon community you can find individuals who give their time and their talent to make that community a better place in which to live, work, and raise a family. For the past 35 years, in the community of Grants Pass, that individual was Larry Brown, who passed away last week after a courageous fight against cancer.

Larry was a forester by profession, and served in leadership positions for the Southern Oregon Timber Industries Association, the Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association, and the Oregon Board of Forestry Forest Practices Commission.

Larry was not only dedicated to growing healthy trees, he was also dedicated to growing healthy children. He served 5 years on the Grants Pass School Board, and was a passionate advocate for programs benefitting youth during his many years of service and leadership in the Grants Pass Rotary Club.

Larry's love for his country could be seen in his 20 years of service in the Oregon National Guard. Larry retired from the National Guard as a major in 1982, and during his service he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with 5 bronze oak leaf clusters.

Larry was also a passionate Republican. I am just one of many elected officials who was constantly calling on Larry to organize an event or a meeting. I knew that when I called on Larry, I was calling on someone who knew and loved his community, and who would get the job done right.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "To live fully is to be engaged in the passions of one's time." There can be no doubt that Larry Brown lived a full life, because he truly made a difference in the passions of his time.

I extend my condolences to Larry's wife, Georgette, who continues the family tradition of public service through her service as Josephine County Clerk, and to his daughters Monique and Martie.

I am just one of many elected officials who relied on Larry's counsel, advice, and friendship. •

##### HONORING MAJOR W. WHEELLOCK

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man that has dedicated the last 7